

Mill Creek Friends' Meetinghouse  
East side of Landenburg-Wilmington Road,  
opposite intersection with Mill Creek Meeting House  
Road  
Hockessin Vicinity (Corner Ketch, Mill Creek Hundred)  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-161

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2-CORN K.V.

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## MILL CREEK FRIENDS' MEETINGHOUSE

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Location: East side of Landenburg-Wilmington Road, opposite intersection with Mill Creek Meeting House Road, Hockessin Vicinity, (Corner Ketch, Mill Creek Hundred), New Castle County, Delaware.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mill Creek Friends' Meeting.

Present Use: Friends' Meetinghouse.

Statement of Significance: A typical Delaware mid-nineteenth century rural Friends' meetinghouse with interesting details and pleasant surroundings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Mill Creek Friends
2. Date of erection: c. 1840.

## B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

In 1838, James Thompson and thirty-two Friends requested New Garden Meeting (Pennsylvania) for the indulgence of a Meeting in Mill Creek Hundred. At a meeting held at his home on October 16, 1838, the request was granted. The privilege of building a meetinghouse was also granted. The present stone meetinghouse was then built.

It was completed and in use by February 19, 1841. On that date, James Thompson, for a consideration of \$1.00 deeded the meetinghouse site, consisting of one and one-half acres of land, to David Eastburn, John Thompson, Jr., Thomas Mitchel, Samuel Loyd, Lewis Fell and Marshall Yeatman, members of the Mill Creek Meeting who acted as trustees.

In 1901, the mid-week meetings, with the exception of the Preparative Meetings, were discontinued. The time of holding the Preparative Meetings was changed in 1903. In 1914, the meetings were suspended during the winter. In 1915, all meetings were discontinued except on the first first-day of each month. In 1925, the Preparative Meetings were discontinued. Since 1930, only occasional meetings are held. An annual meeting is held on the first day before Labor Day.

C. Sources of Information:

Cooch, Francis. Little Known History of Newark, Delaware and its Environs. Newark, Delaware: The Press of Kells, 1936. p. 98.

Zebbley, Frank R. The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington: Frank R. Zebbley, 1947. pp. 146-48.

Prepared by William B. Bassett,  
Architectural Historian  
National Park Service  
with the cooperation of  
Robert L. Raley, AIA  
June 1965.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A nineteenth century rural meetinghouse with interesting details and pleasant surroundings.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: One story; 39' long by 30' wide (rectangular shape).
2. Foundations: Local stone and mortar.
3. Wall construction: Local stone (blackish gray) and mortar with the east end wall covered by 1" thick concrete stucco. A small wooden clapboard shed attached to east.
4. Porches: A concrete porch (25' long by 7' wide) on south side.
5. Chimneys: Two, small brick chimneys, one at each end of the gabled roof.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Two six-paneled wooden doors on south side, one flush door on west side. All have wooden surrounds.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Six-over-nine lights, double-hung wooden sash with wooden surrounds with three-

paneled wooden shutters with wrought iron rocker shutter dogs. 1-

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice and eaves: Wooden molded cornice with (top to bottom) a cyma recta, bead, cyma reversa, and box.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The rectangular stone structure is evenly divided into two parts (east and west) separated by a wooden-paneled wall with sliding partitions with one exterior entry to each part on the south (off the porch) and one access door each on the east and west. There are two windows to each part on the north and on the south with one window to each on the east and west wall. The center wooden-paneled partition is of four major sections with one single door. Pews are in groups of seven rows and five rows facing north with central aisles and two rows of (three steps up) pews facing south in each part of structure.
2. Flooring: Rag carpet over pine flooring.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster (white); central wooden paneled wall with four vertical-sliding sections of unfinished inset panels.
4. Doorways and door: Six-paneled wooden door on strap hinges.
5. Notable hardware: Wrought iron latch on central partition door.
6. Lighting: Old kerosene lamps wired for electricity.
7. Heating: Two modern space heaters at each end with flue pipes to end chimneys.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The west end of the structure is 100' east of Landenburg-Wilmington Road with the length of the structure oriented east-west.
2. Walks and driveways: Small concrete walk from south porch to east shed around southeast corner of structure. Gravel drive loops around structure. A "horse block"

(or "upping block") at edge of drive east of structure.

3. Landscaping: Small cemetery (100' x 100') 80' east of meetinghouse. The cemetery is surrounded by a cast-iron fence.

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